

1 A MEMORIAL

2 CONVEYING THE SYMPATHY OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO TO THE
3 FAMILIES OF THE YOUNG WOMEN MURDERED NEAR THE CITY OF JUAREZ
4 IN THE STATE OF CHIHUAHUA, MEXICO, AND ENCOURAGING INCREASED
5 NEW MEXICO INVOLVEMENT IN BRINGING AN END TO THESE CRIMES.
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7 WHEREAS, since 1993, the Mexican border city of Ciudad
8 Juarez and the state of Chihuahua have been plagued with the
9 abduction, sexual assault and brutal murders of more than
10 four hundred girls and women, many of whom are under twenty-
11 five years of age; and

12 WHEREAS, many of the victims are not yet positively
13 identified, dozens of young women fitting the profile of
14 previous victims are missing and many of the crimes show
15 signs of being connected to one or more serial killers; and

16 WHEREAS, many of the abductions occur in broad daylight,
17 and, as a result, many women in Juarez report being afraid to
18 leave their homes; and

19 WHEREAS, many of these victims had been employed in
20 *maquiladoras* or had been training to work in them and
21 disappeared going to or from work or training, and the
22 policies of many *maquiladoras* concerning transportation and
23 locking out tardy employees are alleged to be contributing
24 factors in these disappearances; and

25 WHEREAS, numerous international corporations operating

1 the *maquiladoras*, including some corporations based in the
2 United States, benefit greatly from the labor force available
3 in Juarez and Chihuahua; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico and Chihuahua are sister states,
5 sharing a common cultural heritage and enjoying long ties in
6 trade and commerce; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico law enforcement personnel have
8 provided training to the police agencies in Chihuahua charged
9 with preventing and investigating these crimes, even though
10 numerous agents and officials of the Mexican police have been
11 implicated in these crimes themselves; and

12 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of investigation has stated
13 that one or more killers might be crossing the United States
14 border in connection with these crimes; and

15 WHEREAS, arrests, detentions and tortures of uninvolved
16 suspects, including some United States citizens, have been
17 carried out with little or no evidence, while numerous leads
18 and eyewitness accounts that could have led to the arrest of
19 actual perpetrators have not been adequately pursued; and

20 WHEREAS, support and pressure from American and
21 international corporations operating *maquiladoras* on the
22 border could help bring resolution to the crimes and promote
23 an atmosphere of democracy and rule by law in the state of
24 Chihuahua;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the hundreds of unsolved abductions,
2 rapes and murders of young women in Chihuahua, especially in
3 Ciudad Juarez, that have taken place since 1993 be condemned
4 and that sincere condolences and sympathy to the families of
5 the victims be expressed; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor and the
7 attorney general of New Mexico be requested to express
8 concern to their Mexican counterparts about these crimes and
9 offer whatever assistance is needed to put an end to this
10 shameful plague and to ensure that fair and proper police
11 investigations and judicial proceedings be carried out in
12 connection with this crime wave; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state investment council
14 be requested to research whether United States businesses
15 operating *maquiladoras* in Chihuahua are included in the
16 investment portfolios of any of the state permanent funds,
17 including the member contribution fund as provided in the
18 Public Employees Retirement Act and the educational
19 retirement fund, and provide a report to the interim
20 legislative health and human services committee by September
21 2005 on the extent of such investments; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to
23 conduct a thorough review of all existing relationships
24 between New Mexico law enforcement agencies and those in
25 Chihuahua to determine whether international human rights

1 standards and principles are being followed during law
2 enforcement training and whether efficient background checks
3 and criminal vetting procedures are being performed before
4 offering training to Mexican law enforcement personnel; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that May 5, 2005 be declared as a
6 "Day of Solidarity with the Women of Chihuahua" in the
7 senate; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
9 transmitted to the governor and the attorney general of New
10 Mexico, the mayor of Ciudad Juarez and the governor of the
11 state of Chihuahua.

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